

Message Text

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TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF WHO FURTH MEETING WITH GENEVA
GROUP, NOVEMBER 16

DEPT ALSO PASS TO DR EHRLICH, OIH:DHEW

REF: A. GENEVA 8513, B. GENEVA 9247, C. GENEVA 7758

1. SUMMARY. ADDITIONAL WHO BUDGET INFORMATION FOR 1978-79
NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REFTELS A AND B IS REPORTED BELOW
AS PROVIDED BY ADG FURTH AT THE GG MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16.
END SUMMARY.

2. REORIENTATION OF WHO BUDGET FOR 1978-79. FURTH FRANKLY
STATED RESOLUTION 29.48 HAD CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR THE
SECRETARIAT. ALL BUDGET PROPOSALS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED BY
REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND THE WORK OF THE HEADQUARTERS PROGRAM
COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET PROPOSALS HAD TO BE SCRAPPED.
HOW TO SHIFT 51 PERCENT OF THE REGUALR BUDGET TO 60 PERCENT
WITHOUT RAISING ASSESSMENTS PAID BY MEMBER STATES WAS NOT THE ONLY
PROBLEM. NEITHER THE EXECUTIVE BOARD NOR THE WORLD HEALTH
ASSEMBLY HAD GIVEN THE SECRETARIAT A REAL DEFINITION OF WHAT
WAS MEANT BY TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

3. FURTH QUOTED DG MAHLER ON WHO'S CURRENT BUDGET
THINGKING, SAYING, SINCE MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT
THE LAST WHA HAD NOT FAVORED A BIG INCREASE IN THE
BUDGET, MAHLER CONTINUES TO OBSERVE A CERTAIN PRUDENCE
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IN REGARD TO THE OVERALL BUDGET LEVEL (SUMMARY RECORDS

29TH WHA, COMMITTEE A, PAGE 12, DOC. A29/A/S4/13).

4. FURTH WITHHELD FROM THE GG THE OVERALL PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR 1978 OVER 1977 PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN REFTEL C (NOW 12.10 PERCENT) BUT GAVE SOME NEW FIGURES FOR 1978 AND 1979:

A. 1978

- 1) 8.27 PERCENT INCREASE FOR REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS, OF WHICH 3.49 PERCENT ARE COST INCREASES AND 4.78PERCENT PROGRAM INCREASES IN THE REGIONS.
- 2) NO PROGRAM INCREASES AT THE HEADQUARTERS, GLOBAL AND INTERREGIONAL LEVELS (IN FACT, PROGRAM REDUCTION OF 3.14 PERCENT). COST INCREASES WERE WITHHELD.
- 3) 2.73 PERCENT INCREASE ALONE IN OVERALL 1978 BUDGET RESULT FROM G-LEVEL SALARY INCREASES AND PHC CONFERENCE.

B. 1979

- 1) NO PROGRAM INCREASES AT HEADQUARTERS, GLOBAL AND INTERREGIONAL LEVELS (PROGRAM REDUCTION OF 1.12 PERCENT). COST INCREASES WERE WITHHELD EXCEPT FOR ADDITION OF \$678,000 FOR ARAB LANGUAGE USE.
 - 2) 1979 IS A "BACK TO NORMAL YEAR" EXCEPT THAT THE BUDGET-ARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE ICSC STUDY NOW BEFORE THE UNGA MAY RESULT IN BUDGET INCREASES FOR 1978 AS WELL).
- THIS WILL PROBABLY BE WHOLE DISCUSSION ITEM AT THE EB SESSION IN JANUARY.

5. COMMENT. FURTH'S MENTIONING THAT 363 HEADQUARTERS AND REGIONAL POSTS WOULD BE ABOLISHED BY 1980-81, ELICITED FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM GG MEMBERS, INCLUDING THE UK CHAIRMAN IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS. THE UK CO-CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO PRESS ACCOUNTS IN WHICH IT WAS REPORTED THAT SIMILAR STEPS WERE BEING TAKEN BY FAO, BUT FURTH EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM. WE HAVE SINCE OBTAINED FROM FURTH HIS VERSION. THE PREDECESSOR TO FAO SAOUMA HAD PROPOSED 519 NEW FAO POSTS, WHICH WERE APPROVED BY THE FAO COUNCIL IN 1976 BUT NEVER FILLED. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE 1976/77 BIENNium, SAOUMA PROPOSED TO ABOLISH 330 OF THESE "PAPER POSTS", BUT HE REQUESTED 189 NEW POSTS (DOCUMENT CL69/2/APRIL 1976, ITEM 4, PROVISIONAL AGENDA, 69TH FAO COUNCIL SESSION).CATTO

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